

## DECISION RECORD

EA Number: OR 056-00-084

Project Number: 73-7165

Title of Action: West Basin Well Water Storage Tank Installation Project

Serial/Case File Number: 4120

BLM Office: Prineville

### I. Decision

It is my decision to authorize the installation of the proposed tank and wildlife watering tub, and the removal of a concrete foundation and other debris located on public land. Included in this decision will be the application of the following mitigation measures:

- A. Project work will not proceed until such time as necessary clearances are received from District Heritage, Botanical, Wildlife and other specialists.
- B. Vehicles/equipment will be checked for noxious weed plant or seed matter before entering the project area, and any such matter removed.
- C. Construction activities during saturated soil moisture periods will be prohibited. Road construction will be prohibited.
- D. Project activities will not occur during key sage grouse reproduction periods.
- E. After site cleanup/foundation removal, barren areas will be seeded with sagebrush.
- F. The water storage tank will be of a color that blends in with the local scenery.
- G. No structures (such as handrails) that could be used as avian predator perches will be allowed on the tank.
- H. No installation/removal activities will be permitted between March 15 and October 30.
- I. Any sidecast material would be returned to original contour.
- J. Project work will not proceed until such time as necessary clearances are received from District Heritage and Botanical Specialists.

### II. Alternatives

I considered a full range of alternatives, from not authorizing any water development activities, to constructing a well/pipeline system.

### III. Rationale

The Brothers/LaPine Resource Management Plan (RMP) places the Pine Mountain Allotment into a "Maintain" management category, and cites (on page 81) water developments as one of a number of range improvements to be applied in this allotment to reach rangeland improvement goals. The "Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington" cites (on page 17) water development installation as a practice appropriate for promoting the accomplishment of rangeland health goals. This decision is both consistent with and promotes the accomplishment of the goals and objectives stated in these documents.

A general notice inviting public review and comment of the EA and FONSI was published in the Central Oregonian on in March, 2001. On March 21, 2001 copies of the EA and FONSI (along with an invitation for review and comment) were sent to 18 individuals representing Tribal and State Governments; private organizations; and themselves. No comments were subsequently received from any of these people.

#### IV. Compliance and Monitoring

Post-project monitoring will be conducted to ensure that the project and accompanying salting and other livestock management methods are leading to the achievement of allotment objectives for forage utilization amount and distribution, and rangeland health. Disturbed areas will be monitored over time for exotic invasive plant species such as noxious weeds. Any of these species will be pulled upon discovery and removed from the site. The water tank would be monitored for avian predator perching. If such perching occurs, then the tank would be modified in such a way that precludes predator perching.

#### V. Terms and Conditions

If any archaeological or historical resources are discovered during project installation activities, work will be suspended until such time as clearance is received from a BLM archaeologist. The grazing permittee will be assigned responsibility for the maintenance of these improvements to standards acceptable to the Government.

/s/ Robert Towne  
Field Manager

08/17/01  
Date

Attachments: EA/FONSI

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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Based on an analysis of potential environmental impacts described in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that none of the alternatives constitute a major federal action; that impacts to the human environment are not expected to be significant; and an environmental impact analysis is therefore not required.

My reasons for this determination are:

There will be no significant irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

There will be no significant, adverse impacts to water quality or stream channel morphology.

Cultural resources will be protected during project implementation.

There will be no significant impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plants or animals within the affected area.

There are no wetlands or prime or unique farmlands in the project area. Neither wetlands nor floodplains will be adversely affected.

There will be no significant, cumulative or avoidable adverse effects on the environment.

There are no highly uncertain or unique risks involved.

Known Native American religious sites would not be affected.

The alternatives do not violate federal, state or local law.

/s/ Robert Towne

Robert Towne

Field Manager

Deschutes Resource Area

Prineville District

Bureau of Land Management

08/17/01

Date